THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, May 11, 1807.

ACCOUNT *of the* LOSS *of the* BETSEY SCHOONER.

ON the 10th of November, 1805, the Betsey schooner, burden about 75 tons, left Macao, bound for New South Wales; the crew consisted of William Brooks, commander, Edward Luttrell, mate, one Portuguese gunner, three Portuguese seacunnies, three Manilla and four Chinese lascars. From the 10th of November to the 20th, nothing particular happened; but on the 21st, at half-past two, *a. m.* the vessel struck upon a reef, going 7½ knots; instantly lowered down the boat, and sent a small anchor astern, but on heaving, parted with the cable: they then began to make a raft of the water casks, but the swell was so great it was impossible to effect it; at daybreak found the vessel had forged upon the reef four or five miles, not having more than two feet water; the reef extending to the S. 9 or 10 miles, E. and W. 4 or 5. During three days and nights every exertion was used to get her off, but to no effect; and the crew were so weakened, that they could hardly be persuaded to construct a raft, the vessel, at this time, being bilged on the starboard side. On the 24th, made a raft, and left the vessel, the jolly-boat in company, steering for Balambangan; Captain Brooks, the mate, gunner, and two seacunnies, were in the jolly-boat, provided only with six bottles of water, and a small bag of biscuit; on the raft were one Portuguese, four Chinese, and three Malays, much better provided; they parted company the same day, it coming on to blow a brisk gale from the N.W. and the raft was seen no more. As the island of Borneo bore S.E. there is a probability of its having drifted upon it.

From the 24th, until the 28th, it continued blowing hard from the N.W. with a mountainous sea, and then fell calm;

the water was, by this time, entirely expended, and the remainder of the biscuit wet with salt water. At day-break, on the 29th, saw land, which they supposed to be Balabac, the people nearly exhausted with pulling, it being a perfect calm, and under a burning sun, added to which, they were obliged to drink their own urine. At night, it blew so hard from the N. E. that they were obliged to bear up for Banguey, the north-west point of which they discovered at day light next morning, and instantly went in search of water, which they soon discovered, and drank to excess.

Being in search of fruit, rambling in the woods, they were met by two Malays, to whom they made signs of being in want of food; this being understood, the Malays went away, and in the afternoon returned with two cocoa-nuts and a few sweet potatoes, which they gave in exchange for a silver spoon. At night, went on board the boat; next morning, five Malays made their appearance, and brought some Indian corn and potatoes, for which they received spoons; these people, pointing to Balambangan, gave them to understand that the English had quitted it some time; they then returned on board with their little stock, and attended next morning to receive a promised supply; eleven Malays appeared on the beach; at their landing, and after a little conversation, one of them threw a spear at Captain Brooks, which hit him in the belly; another made a cut at Mr. Luttrell, who being armed with a cutlass, parried it off, and ran to the boat. Captain Brookes withdrew the pike, and ran to a short distance, but they followed him, and cut off both his legs; the gunner was likewise severely wounded, and reached the boat, covered with blood. At this time they saw the Malays stripping the dead body of Captain Brooks; the gunner expired in about 51 minutes.

They immediately made sail, and on examining their stock of provisions, found it consisted of 10 cobs of Indian corn, three pumpkins, and two bottles of water, with which, trusting to the mercy of providence, they determined upon shaping a course for the streights of Malacca.

From the 4th of December until the 14th, nothing particular occurred; they had been fortunately supplied with water by frequent showers, but were nearly exhausted by constant watching and hunger.

On the 15th, they fell in with a groupe of islands, in lat. 3, N. long. about 100, E. In approaching the shore, they were descried by three Malay prows, which immediately attacked them, and in the pursuit, one of the seacunnies was speared, and died instantly; the other was wounded. Mr. Luttrell had a very narrow escape, a spear having passed through his hat. Thus overpowered, the Malays took possession of the boat, and immediately deprived them of their property, the sextant, log-

book,

book, some plate and clothes, keeping them in a prow, exposed to a burning sun, without any covering, and with only a small quantity of sago, during three days; after which, they were taken on shore, to the house of a rajah, on an island named Sube, where they remained in a state of slavery, entirely naked, and subsisting on sago, until the 20th of April, on which day the rajah sailed in a prow for Rhio, taking with him Mr. Luttrell, and the two seacunnies. They arrived at that place after a tedious passage of 25 days, nearly famished.

Their distresses, however, were here alleviated by Mr. Koek, of Malacca, who treated them in the kindest manner; and the ship Koadree, Captain Williamson, arriving the following day, bound for Malacca, they obtained a passage for that port.

The Betsey was lost in lat. 9 43, N. long. 114 14, E.

SPRING FASHIONS,

As represented and described in La Belle Assemblee, or Bell's Court and Fashionable Magazine, published on the 1st of May.

ENGLISH COSTUME.

No. 1.

AN EVENING, OR BALL DRESS.

A Round dress of soft white satin, with short train, slashed sleeve, and square bosom, made to sit close to the form; embroidered round the bottom and bosom with a delicate border in silver. The shawl drapery, formed of a large square of pink patent net, embroidered in correspondent border of silver; which, by crossing the back, and being confined with a brooch on the left shoulder, forms the tunic drapery (now so much in esteem) by the aid of a single pin only. Silver cord and tassels, suspended from one side of the figure. Large diamond brooch in the centre of the bosom, continued in a chain to the bottom of the waist. Drawn tucker of Mechlin lace. Hair in dishevelled curls on the crown of the head, flowing in ringlets towards the left ear. Bandeau of diamonds finished in the centre, in the form of a cockle-shell. Ear-rings of a similar form; armlets and bracelets of blended pearl and hair. Pink satin shoes, trimmed with silver fringe. White kid gloves, rucked.

No. 2.

WALKING, OR CARRIAGE COSTUME.

A French coat of imperial satin, or twill sarsnet, of a lavender-blossom, or light lilac colour; bordered at the wrist, and

entirely round the coat, with a brocade riband of the shaded jonquille colour. A plain walking dress of the finest French cambric, or jaconet muslin, scolloped at the feet in the form of shells; two rows of open hems, or work, at regular distances, immediately above it. Habit shirt of similar material, let in with rich point lace in front; with treble high collars of lace and embroidery. A small brooch of bright amber confines the shirt at the throat, and one of a larger size ornaments the gown in the centre of the bosom. A sash, the colour of the coat, tied immediately in front. India turban cap, or bonnet of correspondent materials, worn generally with a veil of Brussels lace. Hair cropped behind, and in simple curls in front. White sarsnet parasol, with Vandyke floss fringe. York tan gloves, and kid shoes, the colour of the coat.

A FASHIONABLE PARTY,

At the Frescati in Paris.

FIRST LADY.

In a round dress of Italian crape, of a bright lemon colour, over a white sarsnet slip. A short full sleeve, and round bosom, cut low, with a tucker of French net. Conversation bonnet of chip, ornamented with lilac riband. Hair curled on the forehead; and in ringlets on the shoulders.

SECOND LADY.

A round dress of plain India mull muslin with long waist, full sleeve, and frock back. A deep fall of Mechlin lace quite round the bosom, A short sash, of bright morone tied behind. A turban hat, of morone, satin, shaded in checks, and ornamented with field flowers in front. Necklace and ear-rings of mocho-stone linked with gold. Hair cropped close behind, and in dishevelled curls in front. Long Angola shawl, of a bright amber colour, with a rich and variegated border. White kid gloves, and shoes of morone kid.

THE RING,

A Moral Tale.

By the Authoress of the Occasional Essays.

(Continued from Page 352.)

TRUMAN cast a significant look at his daughter, which the sagacious Mr. Tunbelly observing, continued his remarks thus:

" Mayhap

"Mayhap your honour might know his lordship, for he has a vast power of acquaintance among the gentry in these parts."

"I not only know, but respect, and revere his character, and if any thing could add to the esteem I, and every honest man, must feel for such excellence, it is the account you have just given me. To relieve distress is a common debt due to humanity, which every *Christian* feels himself in duty bound to pay; but when *genius* droops, oppressed by the cruel hand of low-born, despicable ignorance, and made the sport of brutal tyranny, and purse-proud, over-bearing insolence, we have a double tie; not only to relieve, in a pecuniary way, as *Christians*, but to feel, to sympathise with them as *men*—as *brothers*. Heavens! what a luxury is doing well! I could almost envy his lordship his feelings, but that I have a heart clings to the virtuous, and justly appreciates the good. What a brute is this landlord!"

"Your honour?" replied Tunbelly, with a stare of surprise. Truman looked surprised in his turn; for the generous act had so powerfully operated on his generous heart, as to render him totally forgetful of the landlord's being in the room, and his rhetoric had been addressed to his daughter. However he thought fit to make a slight apology for the expression; and assuming a more gentle, though steady tone, said,

"Landlord, last night you professed yourself a *Christian*. Obey then the dictates of Christianity, and never, in future, spurn the *needy from your door*."

"To be sure, your honour, I never *does*, but when they have no money, and your honour knows, landlords can't give meat and drink for nothing, though gentry can do as they please. But as I *perceives* your honour knows Lord Grandfield, I *hopes* your honour will have the goodness not to say I said any thing about him; not that I mind his custom, but one would not affront a lord."

"Well, landlord, I expect shortly to see Lord Grandfield; but there is a piece of intelligence I would much rather receive from you than from him. I feel myself much interested concerning this Mr. Merit. I shall leave you an address, and if you can by any clue discover where the gentleman is to be found, and will drop me a line, I shall not only consider myself obliged by your punctuality, but it shall not go unrewarded."

The landlord submissively bowed and retired. But he had no sooner reached the bar, where my "hostess," smartly dressed, "kept her state," but calling the waiters and servants about him, informed them very seriously, that the great gem'man above stairs, in No. 3, was a little *cracked* in the *upper story*; that he had been talking a *mort* of nonsense, he could not understand

derstand a syllable of, about giving away to authors, and poets, and such trumpery; from which it was evident he did not value money, and therefore ordered his wife not to forget charging high, as it was but right an *honest* man should come in for a smack, if it was only to save the disgrace of having it squandered on such *raps* as these. "Why, my dear, (addressing himself to 'mine hostess,') would you believe it? he called me a brute, and said I was no Christian!"

"Not a Christian?"

"Ay, ay, if he was not a gentleman, and a customer, I would have brought him up by a knock-me-down argument, I warrant me! I would have tipt him such a tickler, plump in the *bread basket*, as would soon have let him known whether I was a Christian or not! Not a Christian, indeed! Do I ever get drunk but at my own expense, unless treated with a glass of grog, or can whip it into a customer's bill? and then I have a right to take it. Do I not pay rent and taxes, as well as my neighbours? Is not that like a Christian? Did I ever cheat the king of his duties, but when I could buy a *pair of kegs*, or a double brace, without hazard? and then there is no harm in it; for if I did not do it another would, and an honest smuggler must live, and it is serving a friend, which I always considers. Do I not pay my debts? Did I ever lend a shilling in my life, but upon mortgage, or good security—or did I ever give bail for a man—ever robbed my family by giving any thing away, or not sticking close to my own interest, and is not all this acting like a Christian? I defies any body to say I do not use a conscience; why, go no farther than the last general election, when I snugly sold my vote to all the candidates, and polled for neither, because it would have gone against my conscience to have disobliged any of the customers; and now to be told I am no Christian! or at least as good as told so, though I could leave off business to-morrow, and live like a prince!" How long this honest landlord might have been bruiting forth his good qualities, is uncertain; for Truman's bell ringing, cut short the harangue with—"Coming your honour," and, with his usual bow, stood ready to receive his commands.

Truman informed him he should dine there, and began to enquire concerning the manufactory he intended to visit, when the rattle of a carriage drawing the landlord's attention to the window, he suddenly exclaimed—"As sure as a gun its Lord Grandfield's livery. Would your honour have him informed you are here?"

"By all means."

"Who shall I say, your honour?"

"My black servant will deliver a proper message. Bid him say to his lordship that I am here, and would be happy to pay my respects to him before he quits the house."

Tunbelly

Tunbelly smirked, bowed, and retired: soon after which, the earl entered the room, accompanied by another gentleman, drest in a genteel suit of mourning. He appeared a man turned of fifty, of a graceful, easy carriage, not handsome, being deeply pitted with the small pox; but a fine pair of dark eyes gave brilliance to a sensible, intelligent countenance, truly interesting; and his appearance altogether strongly marked the *gentleman*. The first compliments being over, his lordship begged leave to introduce Mr. Merit to the notice of his friend; saying he was a gentleman for whom he must ever entertain the highest esteem and respect. At the name of Merit, Truman's heart bounded with joy; from meeting him with his lordship, he was clear he could not be mistaken as to that person, and that it must be the identical Mr. Merit, so cruelly treated and insulted by the unfeeling landlord; the recollection of which so agitated his frame, as almost to deprive him of the power of utterance; but if speech failed him in the usual terms of common place compliment, he took him by the hand with a generous pressure, that spoke the warm cordiality of a *brother*.

The two gentlemen congratulated each other on meeting again so unexpectedly; and finding Truman intended dining at the inn, proposed the pleasure of remaining with him, could he make it convenient to dine early, as the earl was under the necessity of pursuing his journey some miles further before he put up for the night. "Mr. Merit," continued his lordship, "has some business that will detain him some little time in the town, and I think, Sir, (addressing himself to that gentleman) the sooner you endeavour to see your friend the better, as we must push on after dinner as soon as possible." Merit, taking up his hat, made a handsome bow, and withdrew.

The conversation immediately turned on the stranger, and Lord Grandfield appearing much pleased with some observations made by Truman to the advantage of his friend, said, as postponing his journey had given him some leisure, he would, if agreeable, fill up the time with some general outlines of his life, which, though not very extraordinary, would sufficiently evince he was deserving esteem.

"Mr. Merit is a man of genteel family, though not possessed of any paternal inheritance; his father was an officer of approved courage and conduct, who lost his life, bravely, in the service of his country, leaving a young widow, and infant son, with little other support than arose from the pension. The lady, passionately fond of her husband, had not fortitude to support so great an affliction; the blow struck to the heart, preyed on the vitals, she fell into a decline, and her sorrows terminated but with her life. Her brother, a worthy clergyman, took charge of the boy, brought up and educated him, intending him also for the church.

" At college he met with a young gentleman, of the name of Goodman, whose circumstances bore a strong similarity with his own, being an orphan, and dependant on the bounty of a relation. With often drawing a comparative view of their situation, their souls became congenial, for I must observe that young Goodman was likewise intended for the gown: but neither of the young friends found in themselves a prepossession in favour of the clerical habit, and in this juvenile intercourse often amused themselves with the formation of plans, should circumstances put it in their power to adopt them, which in time was the case. The vicar died before Merit was of an age for ordination, and left him, in personal property, though not a handsome fortune, a competency.

" Goodman had, about this time, a distant relation, who had returned rich from the East-Indies, who made him a compliment of a sum of money that left him at entire liberty to follow his own inclinations, and he made choice of the law. Merit was of a more volatile turn, and had not come to any fixed determination; not that he was entirely idle, for whilst his friend was closely attaching himself to the dry tenets of Coke upon Littleton, the other was as closely courting the smiles of Thalia; a junction with whom produced a comedy. Goodman solicited for him the patronage of his rich East-India relation; to whom wealth alone had given consequence and power. To one of the proprietors he had lent a considerable sum of money, taking a mortgage on the theatre. Proud of being thought the patron of genius, he interested himself warmly with the manager; the piece was accepted, and in the ensuing winter brought forward to public view. The characters were judiciously cast, and well supported, and the piece received by a generous public, ever ready to reward merit, with universal and liberal applause and approbation, the profits of which made no contemptible addition to his fortune, and determined the author to adopt no other plan than what arose from his literary talents, and to exert them principally, as most profitably, in the dramatic line, and was a second time successful.

" With years, the generous effusion of kindred minds expanded; they lived not only as friends but brothers, and were almost inseparable. Each had determined never to marry; and one evening, after a very serious conversation, it was determined to make a reciprocal *will;* each leaving the whole of his possessions to the survivor, whenever the cruel hand of death should snatch them from each other: whether in lands, monies, or in any other way or means, said possessions should at the time consist of. Goodman never did marry; but Merit's heart, however steeled against the allurements of a wanton, was tremblingly alive to the reception of a virtuous, generous passion.

He was formed, unknowing to himself, for love, and all its little train of tender anxieties, soft sensations, and warm emotions.

(To be continued.)

An ANECDOTE.

THE following anecdote of Adam Smith, the author of the immortal and invaluable work on the Wealth of Nations, is at once characteristic of the simplicity of manners which distinguished that wonderful man, and of that delicacy of moral feeling, which he with so much eloquence impressed upon others:

"Mr. Smith filled the chair of professor of moral philosophy at Glasgow for twelve years with great reputation, when he was induced to quit that establishment at the earnest request of Mr. Charles Townshend, who was desirous he should undertake the office of travelling tutor to Henry, duke of Buccleugh. 'The liberal terms,' (says Mr. Stewart), 'in which the proposal was made to him, added to the strong desire he had felt of visiting the continent of Europe, induced him to resign his office at Glasgow.' His elegant biographer was probably unacquainted with an anecdote attending this resignation, which is of a nature so truly characteristic of the eminent person to whom it relates, that I am glad to seize the slightest pretence for inserting it. When Mr. Smith undertook the charge of accompanying the duke of Buccleugh to the continent, it became necessary for him to resign his professorship in the college of Glasgow, in the middle of his annual course of lectures. He procured a literary friend, in whose talents he had perfect confidence, to finish the course; and furnished him for the purpose with the notes from which he had been in use to deliver his predilections; thus providing, as well as he could, that his pupils might suffer no disadvantage from the change. But still fearing that there was some injustice done to those young men who had paid the usual fees on the faith of having the benefit of a complete course of lectures, he resolved to set his conscience at ease upon that score. After concluding his last lecture, and publicly announcing from the chair, that he was now taking a final leave of his auditors; acquainting them at the same time with the arrangement he had made to the best of his power for their benefit; he drew from his pocket the several fees of the students, wrapped up in separate paper parcels, and calling up each man by his name, he delivered to the first who was called, the money into his hand. The young man peremptorily refused to accept it, declaring, that the instruction and pleasure he had already received, was much more than

he either had repaid, or ever could compensate; and a general cry was heard from every one in the room to the same effect. But Mr. Smith was not to be bent from his purpose. After warmly expressing his feelings of gratitude, and the strong sense he had of the regard shewn him by his young friends, he told them, this was a matter betwixt him and his own mind, and that he could not rest satisfied unless he performed what he deemed right and proper.—'You must not refuse me this satisfaction. Nay, by heavens, gentlemen, you shall not;'—and seizing by the coat the young man who stood next to him, he thrust the money into his pocket, and then pushed him from him. The rest saw it was in vain to contest the matter, and were obliged to let him take his own way. It is not always that the speculative doctrines of the philosopher thus influenced his conduct and practice."

Particulars of the present State of Poland.

By an English Gentleman, recently returned from that Country, after a Residence in it of two Years.

(Continued from Page 147.)

THE price of provisions in Poland has more than doubled since the partition; but as money has increased in proportion, no complaints are made of dearth. The ordinary price of the best shambles-meat is about three-pence a pound, English money; whereas before the two last divisions, it was often at a penny, and never exceeded three half-pence. The most intelligent statement I could probably give relative to this topic is the following:—The Count Zamoyski, when in England, three or four years ago, took over with him several English mechanics, and among the rest a porter-brewer of some respectability. Happening to see the last of these persons, when he had kept house in the country about six months, I enquired of him what were the average expences of his living? He said, it was difficult, if not impossible to live so well in Poland as in England, though there should be no want of the means; but that, as nearly as he could estimate, he could live for one half of the sum. Still, I am of opinion, that household expenditure may be more accurately rated at a third only of what it is in England: for new settlers can scarcely be supposed to have become familiar, in so short a time, with all the ways and means of getting things at the cheapest rate; particularly in Poland, where they must be continually liable to the extortion of the Jews. Besides, from my own observation, I must rate domestic expences lower. At respectable hotels in Warsaw,

no

no more than about a shilling is paid for a dinner, though nothing be expected to be drunk afterwards. I speak now of a common table, it is true; but it is well and abundantly furnished, is attended by people of respectability, and a billiard-table stands in an ante-room.

What I conjectured, or rather what I stated with a full conviction in my second paper relative to the difficulty of maintaining large armies in Poland, has been recently verified by a statement in one of the French bulletins, which affirms that beef is half a crown a pound at Warsaw; that is, it is risen to ten times its customary price.

The manufactures of Poland are very few and inconsiderable, consisting chiefly of the coarse linen cloth, worn by the peasants. The late king established, in 1776, at Grodno, the principal town of Lithuania, manufactories of cloth, camblets, linens, cotton, silks, stuffs, &c. Of the fate of these establishments I can give no distinct account: for, of Russian Poland, I know absolutely nothing from observation, and very little from report.

There is, in Galicia, one manufactory of earthenware and of porcelain; and the china it produces is sufficiently neat, though there is no approach to elegance. These are perhaps the only manufactories in Poland of any articles above what may be considered as absolutely necessary in every country that has the smallest claim to the epithet of civilized. Hence the price of all manufactured articles is extremely high. A hat of the value of a guinea in England will cost an equivalent to a guinea and half in Poland. The same proportion takes place in the two countries, in the price of a yard of cambric, for which I have also paid a guinea and half. A coat, of which the cloth may be bought separately, and made by a dirty Jew in an insignificant Polish town, will cost little less than five guineas. Other articles of dress are in proportion.

The manufactures of England are in great requisition, notwithstanding the prohibitions which existed, before the arrival of the French, against their importation. You cannot enter a shop in any large town, but every thing of this description is English, even to an ordinary silk purse. Of course, this cannot be always, though it is frequently, true. I had occasion to buy a hat at Lemberg. The name of the maker, of the street in London, and number where he lived, were all distinctly noted on a label; but from some particular and decisive marks, I could not hesitate a moment to conclude that the hat had never been in England.

Trade almost of every description is, for the most part, conducted by Jews. In all the large towns, and indeed in the small ones, their shops are not only the most numerous, but the best. These shops have their emissaries, who are inferior Jews, and

whose business it is to loiter about the town, and particularly about the hotels and taverns, to collect customers. A stranger no sooner arrives at an hotel, than he is accosted by some dirty Jew, who will even enter his apartment without ceremony, and is ready, on a favourable answer, to conduct him to the shop of his employer. It is curious to see the officious eagerness, the persevering importunity, the unceasing watchfulness of every motion of the stranger, which distinguish these emissary Jews, and the alacrity with which they lead the way, when they have gained their point. The shops even in Warsaw make but little exterior display. Those which are abundantly furnished with valuable goods, have windows of inconsiderable dimensions.

There are many Jews, who have even obtained farms of the nobles. One of these was pointed out to me at Dantzic, who was resident there for a time to sell his corn. He had divested himself, however, of his beard, and of the black robe distinctive of his order.

The general population of Poland is stated at 15 millions. It was thus estimated before the last partition; but the nobles are fond of thinking that it has declined since that event. The accounts of others, however, who may be supposed less interested in the independence of the country, do not confirm their opinion; nor, from the various marks of improvement discoverable, particularly in the Prussian part, would a stranger be led to such a conclusion. Of this population, the peasants constitute a large majority.

A Polish peasant is short in stature, and appears as if stinted in his growth. He has small grey eyes, a short nose, generally somewhat turned up; hair in general approaching to yellow, though it sometimes inclines to a darkish colour; his complexion is also of a yellow hue; his general aspect dull and dejected; his gait heavy, and devoid of life. Still, the Poles assert that he may be drilled into a very good soldier. The peasant women are usually very short, and squat. From their extreme dirtiness and general unsightliness, nothing in the form of woman can be conceived less lovely. I have never seen in a young peasant girl, even when clean and neat, the slightest approach to beauty.

The dress of the peasants consists chiefly in a coarse upper garment of a dark reddish colour, more like a mantle than a coat, which reaches below the knee, and is confined round them with a girdle. This, in winter, is lined with sheep-skins. They have besides, a little fur-cap, and a few other articles of dress, all of the coarsest materials. The dress of the peasant women is scarcely to be analysed, at least by a man. When they are dressed on a Sunday, it is tawdry beyond description, consisting of a great variety of different colours, as in patch-work,

of

of which, however, red is the predominant one. When thus accoutred, they look as if made up for scarecrows. In summer, the women have nothing on but a mere shift and an under-petticoat, which extends scarcely below the knees; and are commonly without shoes or stockings.

Their diet is very scanty. They have rarely any animal food; their best things are their milk and poor cheese, which they have in sufficient abundance; but the staple of their diet is the coarse rye bread I have before mentioned, and which I have attempted in vain to swallow.

The political condition of this wretched race of beings, is still more degrading to human nature. I have before given some account of a Polish farm; and have now to add a few particulars, as connected with the subject of the peasantry. When a farmer rents a farm, the villages situated on it, with their inhabitants, are considered as included in the bargain; and the farmer derives a right to the labour of the peasantry for the cultivation of that farm. The relation between the peasant and the landholder is this—On the marriage of a young peasant, his lord assigns him a certain quantity of land, sufficient for the maintenance of himself and family, in the poor manner in which they are accustomed to live. Should the family be numerous, they have some increase of land. At the same time they obtain also a few cattle, as a cow or two, with steers to plow their land. These are fed in the stubble, or in the open places of the woods, as the season admits. In consideration of these grants, the peasant makes a return to the landholder, of one half of his labour; that is, he works three days in the week for his lord, and three for himself. If any of his cattle die, they are replaced by the master; a circumstance which renders him negligent of his little herd, as the death or loss of some of them is a common occurrence.

Thus, though the Polish boors are not attached to the soil, in the feudal sense of the term, and absolutely subject to the will of the lord like brute beasts; yet, they are still transferred as a part of the stock of the estate on which they live to every fresh purchaser or tenant. They are not privileged to quit the soil, except in a few instances of complete enfranchisement; and if they were, the privilege would be merely nominal: for whither should they go? No landholder would admit a fugitive peasant, through fear of encouraging a spirit of disaffection. It is not in their power, from the circumstances of their condition, to sell their labour indifferently to this or that master; and if such obstacles did not oppose, the very extent of the Polish farms, and the consequent want of a second contiguous employer, would suffice in most cases to preclude a change of masters.

It

It is said, that a few of the peasants improve the little stock which is committed to their management, accumulating some small property; but their conduct is far more frequently marked by carelessness and want of forecast. Besides, it does not appear, that their allowance of land and cattle either is, or designed to be, more than enough for their scanty maintenance. I was once on a short journey with a nobleman, when we stopped to bait at the farm-house of a village, as is common in Poland. The peasants got intelligence of the presence of their lord, and assembled in a body of twenty or thirty to prefer a petition to him. I stood at a distance, and perceived that he did not yield to their supplication. When he had dismissed them, I had the curiosity to enquire the object of their petition; and he replied, that they had begged for an increased allowance of land, on the plea that what they had was insufficient for their support. He added, "I did not grant it them; because their present allotment is the usual quantity; and as it has sufficed hitherto, so it will for the time to come. Besides, (said he) if I give them more, I well know, that it will not, in reality, better their circumstances."

Poland does not furnish a man of more humanity than the one who rejected this apparently reasonable petition. But it must be allowed, that he had good reasons for what he did. Those degraded and wretched beings, instead of hoarding the small surplus of their absolute necessities, are almost universally accustomed to expend it in that abominable spirit which they call *schnaps*. It is incredible what quantities of this pernicious liquor is drank both by the peasant men and women! I have been told, that a woman will frequently drink a quart, and even more, at a sitting, and that too in no great length of time. I have myself often seen one of these poor women led home between two men, so intoxicated as to be unable to stand; there can be no question, that the excessive use of this whisky (were it not to libel whisky thus to stile it) ought to be enumerated among the chief proximate causes of the deficient population of Poland. It is indeed so considered by the Poles; and Count Zamoyski has lately established a porter brewery in Galitzia, in the hope of checking eventually so hurtful a habit, by the substitution of that wholesome beverage.

The farmers are intermediate between the nobles and the peasants. They are a respectable class of men; and have free access to the noble's table. Hence, they sometimes acquire a degree of polish superior to what is usually found among English farmers, though tenfold more opulent. The situation of a farmer, therefore, has some peculiar advantages; and it is accordingly, the highest object of ambition to a young Pole, not of independent fortune, to get the lease of a good farm;

when

when he establishes himself in life, in the best manner which Poland admits. As a first step, however, to the obtainment of a farm, it is often the case, that a young man becomes connected with a nobleman's family in some official capacity, and turns farmer only when he marries. But even his marriage does not necessarily preclude his continued connection with the family; for should his services be deemed of sufficient consequence, a contiguous abode is provided him.

The houses of the farmers are commonly built of wood, and have merely a ground-floor. On the exterior, they are, in every point of view, humble, very often mean in appearance; the interior is occasionally somewhat better; though an Englishman looks in vain for any thing like comfort. There are usually two or three ordinary rooms white-washed, though one only serves, for the most part, as a sitting-room. The floors are sometimes of earth only, but more frequently planked. A bed almost always stands in every room, sometimes, though rarely, with curtains. The only double bed, however, is that for the master and mistress of the family; and which stands in the principal room; the others are mere couches for single persons, placed in the corners. In the midst of all these homely appearances, you are much, though equally, surprized at seeing the table set out with considerable neatness, and abundantly supplied with good things. Every plate is furnished with a napkin and a silver fork; the courses are almost as numerous, and follow the same order as in the house of a nobleman, from which the whole is obviously imitated. There is some little incongruity in all this, it must be owned; but incongruities of this description are abundant in Poland.

To give the reader some idea of the value of land in Poland, I shall mention a purchase, with the particulars of which I happened to be made acquainted. The manufacturer of porcelain, above-mentioned, had become rich enough to have a quantity of superfluous capital, which he was desirous of vesting in the solid property of land. Accordingly, he purchased an estate, for which he gave about two thousand pounds sterling. The exact number of acres it is not in my power to state; but from the information of a gentleman present who had been in England, I learnt, that the whole must be about two thousand acres, half of which, however, was in forest. The house on this estate was the largest and the best, exclusive of those of the nobles, I had seen. There were several rooms larger than ordinary, well white-washed, and the furniture and general appearance sufficiently neat and commodious; yet it was built solely of wood. It had also a spacious garden, fenced by a wooden enclosure, and laid out into walks, &c.

I have been thus particular in my account of this purchase, because this single instance furnishes a striking proof, how

certainly manufactures are followed by opulence and improvement.

MEANS *of* ESCAPING *from* HOUSES *on* FIRE.

To the PRINTER,

SIR,

WE read so frequently of persons being burnt to death, or maiming themselves by leaping out of window when a house is on fire, for want of the means of escape, that I feel it my duty to mention a simple contrivance which I have for many years adopted, and which enables me to sleep in perfect security.

I provide two or three of my chambers with a moderately stout rope, such as may be bought for a shilling or eighteenpence; I tie knots in them, and fasten one end either to a bedpost, to a strong staple, or any other suitable fixture. In case of fire, and of my inability to escape from the lower part of the house, either of these ropes thrown out of a window, would enable me or my family to slip down it. The knots would afford us resting places for the hands and feet; and children and infirm persons might be let down by means of a running noose, with which I always provide the lower end of the rope.

If from inattention, for I cannot suppose the practicability of the means will be doubted, or the expence of the ropes be begrudged, houses on fire are unprovided with this simple means of escape, it is the duty of all the neighbours, without delay or solicitation, to bring out and strew, under the windows of the house on fire, all their feather beds and mattresses, 'till the family are in security.

In communicating these precautions to the public, relative to the means of escape from fire, I consider it very important to make known to the world a means of escaping suffocation in a room filled with smoke. It is practised by the firemen in the metropolis, with a degree of success and address which has entitled them to the name of salamanders. If a house were on fire, so that no ordinary person could venture into any part of it without suffering immediate suffocation, and its owner wished to rescue from the flames any precious object, an experienced London fireman will extricate it without hesitation or hazard.

He effects this by means of a principle well known in the pneumatics, but which the intellectual powers of man would never apply *a priori* to such a combination of circumstances. The heat, smoke, and unrespirable air, ascend to the upper parts of the room, and a stream of pure air occupies the space in immediate contact with the floor. The fireman crawls then into the house on his hands and knees, and keeps his face, in his

his progress, as close to the floor as possible; and in this manner he will go and return to any part of the premises, not actually in flames.

COMMON SENSE.

London, March 23, 1807.

SIAMESE ELEPHANTS.

THE king of Siam keeps a great number of elephants. Those of his palace are particularly taken care of, and have extraordinary honours paid to them. The meanest have fifteen slaves to attend them, who are constantly employed in cutting hay, and gathering bananas and sugar canes for them. The king takes so much pride in these creatures, which are of no real use, that he estimates his power rather by their number than by that of his provinces.

Under pretence of feeding these animals well, their attendants will drive them into gardens and cultivated lands, that they may trample upon them, unless the owners will purchase an exemption from these vexations by continual presents. No man would dare to enclose his field against the king's elephants, many of whom are decorated with honourable titles.

DEDICATION *of* BOOKS.

WE find from the foreign literary journals, that the rage among the authors of Germany for dedicating and presenting their works to the electors and sovereign princes of the empire, has drawn down their indignation on those ambitious scribblers. The elector of Baden has given notice in the journals, that he shall not give any answer to authors who send him their works. A similar intimation has been given by the duke of Saxe-Teschen, the prince of Anhalt-Dessau, and the duke of Mechlenburgh-Schwerin. The senate of Hamburgh has also desired authors neither to address, nor dedicate to it, any literary performance, without its permission.

Answer, by Robert Maffett, of Plymouth, to P. Ninnis's Question, inserted June 9, 1806.

FIRST $46 \times 27.5 = 1265$, again $46 - 27.5 = 18.5 \times 18.5 \div 3 = 114.08$, the square of one-third of their difference, then $1265 + 114.08 = 1379.08 \times 18$ feet, the length is $= 24823.44 \div 144 = 172.385 =$ 172 feet, 4 inches, the content required.

Answer, by J. Joyce, of Tiverton, to J. A. Dyer's Charade, inserted February 9.

FOR ever may my mind be free
From fell MISTRUST and jealousy.

☞ We have received the like answer from J. S. and H. Stoneman, of Exeter; a serjeant of the Broadhembury volunteers; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; W. D. of Bristol; and G. P. O. of Beer.

Answer, by W. D. of Bristol, to J. Rowden's Rebus, inserted February 16.

JOIN your first and second right,
MURRAY, the author, comes to sight.

*** Similar answers have been received from J. Whitnell, of Street; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; T. Bullock, of St. Columb; J. Ryan, of Stonehouse; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. Joyce, and Loosemore, of Tiverton; and W. H. H. of Totnes.

Answer, by J. S. of Exeter, to P. Codd's Rebus, inserted February 16.

WHEN your initials are combin'd.
DRYDEN's the poet that I find.

☞ We have received the like answer from a serjeant of the Broadhembury volunteers; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; H. Stoneman, and H. Ellis, of Exeter; J. Joyce, and Loosemore, of Tiverton; J. Whitnell, of Street; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; W. D. of Bristol; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; H. Easter, of Poole; T. Bullock, of St. Columb; and S. D. and F. Arden, of Plymouth.

A REBUS, *by J. A. Dyer, of Taunton.*

O May my first, thro' fam'd Britannia's isle,
For ever flourish! then shall commerce smile;
To find my next a pronoun introduce,
In speech or writing found of general use;
My last doth signify to stop the breath,
And must inevitably end in death;

These parts arrang'd, and plac'd in order true,
A well-known plant, ye gents. appears in view.

A REBUS, *by A. L. T.*

MY first's a bird that doth in England dwell;
One of the muses, secondly, pray tell;
Part of your mortal frame you'll next define;
A passion that doth oft corrupt the mind;
A garden root you'll fifthly predicate;
Of length a measure next elucidate;
A town in Sussex, gents. I now desire;
And last the tyrant that set Rome on fire:

These eight initials in due order frame,
What I am then you instantly will name,
In history famous, and in story grand,
Such as I am have had a great command.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The LOVER DESPAIRING.

AN ELEGIAC ODE.

By B. HANSFORD, *Wincanton.*

Ah! Corydon, Corydon, qua te dementia cepit!
VIR. ECL. 2. v. 69.

'TWAS noon of night, deep silence reign'd,
Full-orb'd resplendent Luna shone,
Whose lonely, wand'ring chariot gain'd
Alone her high meridian throne:

When from yon mountain's hoary side,
Which far o'erlooks the deeps below,
Shrill echoed o'er th' expanding tide
A loud lamenting tale of woe.

Slow thro' the cold, thin midnight air
The sadly-sounding accents rung:
Of Celia false, of Celia fair,
Forlorn a youth despairing sung:

" Far, far I'll cross the wat'ry waste,
" Wandering I'll seek some kinder shore;
" Let fortune frown my hopes to blast,
" I'll see Britannia's coast no more!

" Adieu! ye rural nymphs and swains;
" No more, with laugh and pleasing song,
" I'll roam the yellow-bosom'd plains,
" The softly-sounding rills among.

" Well-known to you the rueful tale,
" Rumour'd thro' ev'ry grove and lawn,
" Why I forsake the lowland dale,
" Where sings the lark at early dawn.

" With you, where shading far the green
" Yon elm-row guards the solar ray,
" Each night, in mirth's gay, pleasing scene,
" I lost the labours of the day.

" There blooming Celia first I saw,
" But newly known to nymph or swain;
" Yet rul'd by fond, maternal law,
" Forbid to roam the sportive plain.

" Amidst the roses of her cheeks,
" In sparkling splendour beam'd her eye;
" In blushing clouds, when morning breaks,
" Thus Sol ascends the orient sky.

" To her my earliest hope confess'd,
" To love I vow'd for ever true;
" Ye gods! what raptures thrill'd my breast,
" Celia confess'd—she lov'd me too.

" Oft

" Oft times alone, at ev'ning hour,
" We rang'd the deep, sequester'd grove;
" Oft at high noon we sought the bow'r,
" Exchanging mutual vows of love.

" How heav'd my heart with rip'ning joys!
" Delusive phantoms! are you fled?
" Could specious wealth, and glitt'ring toys,
" Tempt Celia to the bridal bed!

" Ah! fiend detested! sordid gold!
" Ah! thrice unhappy, perjur'd fair!
" Thy plighted vows, for treasure sold,
" Unpitied leave me in despair.

" No rays of hope my bosom warm,
" O'erwhelm'd in clouds of deep distress;
" My life's a long continued storm
" Of never ceasing wretchedness.

" Ah! cruel Celia, treacherous maid,
" From thee perfidious, doom'd to go;
" The lone retreats, where once we stray'd,
" Exchang'd for endless scenes of woe!

" I'll go and tell the deserts wild,
" The barren sands, and dreary waste,
" How first my lovely Celia smil'd,
" How faithless Celia prov'd at last!

" From wealthy India's golden coast,
" Northward to Finland's frozen shore,
" In scorching heat, and piercing frost,
" I'll Celia's perfidy deplore!

" To howling storms, on mountains high,
" While darts the vivid lightnings glare,
" While trembling thunder shakes the sky,
" I'll Celia's treachery declare.

" To ev'ry hollow blast of wind,
" From north or southern regions blown,
" All on some barren rock reclin'd,
" I'll Celia's cruelty make known:

" 'Till, worn with care, I find at last,
" Remote, some desolated shore,
" Where rudely beats the northern blast,
" And loud the breaking surges roar:

" There, in some lone, deep, rocky cell,
" Lull'd by the hoarse-resounding main,
" Celia I'll bid a long farewell,
" Ne'er, ne'er, on her to think again!"

SONNET *to the* LARK.—*By the Same.*

HAIL! tuneful harbinger of dawn,
At early hour the grove, the lawn,
Newly awaken'd by thy song,
Joyous the mellow notes prolong.
Soaring aloft thy pleasing strains,
Over the woods, the vales, and plains,
Rouse to work the labouring swains.
While from the upland's steepy height
The shepherds watch thy airy flight,
Soft warbling thro' the twilight gray,
'Till borne in fleecy clouds away.
Now morn in blushes rears her head;
Far o'er the dewy spangled mead
Extends the lofty poplar's shade.